



## Weekly News

### Tremont Museum Exhibit

#### **THIS SUNDAY! COME JOIN IN THE FUN!**

The decade of the 1950s is the focus of Tremont Museum's current exhibit. From saddle shoes and Leave it to Beaver to bomb shelters and "duck and cover" drills, this decade was one to remember.



### Historical Society Program - Mark your calendar!

#### **WE ARE FFA!**

MEET SOME OF TREMONT'S FFA STUDENTS AND THEIR NEW TEACHER/ADVISOR

Be sure to mark your calendars: Tremont Museum and Historical Society's next program will be titled, "We Are FFA!" It will be held at 7:00 PM - Tuesday, March 21 at the Tremont Community Center. Tremont's Agriculture Program and their FFA (Future Farmers of America) are well known with a well-deserved reputation for excellence. Hear about what these young people are learning and accomplishing. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments served.

### Did you know...?

## The Irish Among Us, Part 2 The Catholic Church, the Irish, and the Ku Klux Klan

Sometimes when we look at decades past, we focus on the good. But within sight of the idyllic is the rest of the picture. The 1920s are a prime example, even in our small, quiet prairie town.

Decades earlier, several families who immigrated from County Waterford, Ireland came to settle in Tremont. Early on, several leaders of the Irish settlers formed a Catholic church which met in people's homes. In 1863, they purchased a vacant schoolhouse for their services. In 1875, there was an attempt to build a church, which was unsuccessful. Finally in 1879, a group of men organized a successful effort to build a Catholic church, which held its first worship services on Christmas Day of 1880. Many of the names of the those who were on the organizing committee are still familiar today. They were William Connell, John Cullinan, James Cooney, Patrick Ryan, Michael Morrissey, John Fitzgerald, and Nick Menard.

The Catholic Church, known by many as St. Patrick's Catholic church, had an organ, a coal or wood burning stove, and stained-glass windows. However, in the early 1900s, the church closed its doors due to a shrinking congregation. One likely reason is that, with cars becoming more popular, it was much easier to attend the larger Catholic church in Pekin. The church continued to stand until the 1930s, when it was torn down.

Fast forward to the 1920s and the next generation. Recall that the "Roaring 20s," were a time of gangs, flappers, bootleggers, and Prohibition. Not so well-known is that the early 20s also saw a revival of the Ku Klux Klan. The original KKK was an active and hate-filled group targeting African Americans in the post-Civil War South. The 1920s Ku Klux Klan could also be violent and bigoted, and was a social fraternity as well, favoring each other in businesses, etc. They supported national prohibition and despised big business and labor unions. They were also anti-Catholic and anti-Irish.

In interviews with some older members of our community, it is confirmed that Tremont did, indeed, have members of the KKK who targeted the businesses and homes of many of the Irish in town. Tales of fiery crosses on front lawns (of some houses that still stand today) and meetings in the countryside outside of town have been told. But there is little to be found in the newspapers of the day about these activities.

By the end of the 1920s, the KKK organization around the country collapsed.

Tremont Museum and Historical Society  
Lori Fuoss

*Article sources: mchistory.org, billofrightsinstitute.org, personal interviews*

## Summer Rec Ball Registration

Hurry! Get Registered for TAPD Summer Rec Ball!

2023 Recreation Baseball and Softball Registration is Now Open! Register Now to avoid late fees.

### **Summer Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration**

6U Modified Coach Pitch (Co-ed): \$55.00 Resident

Boys 8 & under / Girls 8 & under: \$80.00 Resident

Boys 10 & under / Girls 10 & under: \$90.00 Resident

Boys 12 & under / Girls 12 & under: \$90.00 Resident

\*Little Turks T-Ball (age 4-6 / Co-ed): \$55.00 Resident -T-Ball registration to open at a later date

*Please note: additional \$25.00 fee charged for non-resident*

\*LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CHARGED AN EXTRA FEE OF HALF THE

REGISTRATION FEE

*\*Example: program fee \$55.00 will be charged \$82.50 late registration fee*

\*REGISTRATION ENDS: 3/31/2023...REGISTER PROMPTLY TO AVOID LATE CHARGE

## Tremont District Library News

### **Lego Afternoons (ages 6+)**

Mondays, Mar. 20th, Apr. 17th, & May 15th, 3-4:30pm

Work together to build amazing creations! Try out new sets, stop motion videos, and other challenges. Ages 6+, no registration required.

### **Hogwarts' Half-Bloods (YA Book Club)**

Tuesday March 21st, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Ages 12-19 are invited to join us to discuss a monthly book (or two) pick and enjoy a drink from Eli's. Copies of each month's book are available at the library for anyone interested! If you'd like to keep up to date with Hogwarts' Half-Bloods, email Lizzi at [lizzi@tremontlibrary.com](mailto:lizzi@tremontlibrary.com) to be added to our Remind group.

### **Baby & Me (ages 0-3)**

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am

A support group for new & experienced parents.

### **Teen Blacklight Program**

Thursday March 23rd, 6-8pm (drop-in)

Blacklights can make white and neon colors really pop. Join us to make a few different things that will also be cool under a blacklight! No registration is required for this program. Ages 12-19.

*Note: This program is scheduled from 6-8pm, but can be treated as a drop-in program. Come when you can and stay as long as you'd like!*

### **Story Hour**

Thursday March 23rd, 10:30 am - 11:15 am

Story Hour is perfect for ages 3-6. Miss Maddie reads stories, sings songs and rhymes, and does activities that all encourage early literacy and improves socialization skills in the youngest of library patrons. We know a group setting is new for lots of kiddos this age, so wiggles are welcome! Make Story Hour a step you take in preparing your child for life-long learning.

### **Minecraft in the Meeting Room (ages 7+)**

Saturdays, Mar. 25th, Apr. 15th, & May 20th, 10am-12:30pm

Hop on our library realm to create with friends!

### **Move & Do (ages 0-5)**

Third Fridays, Apr. 21st, & May 19th, 10am-12pm

Join us in the meeting room for educational based free-play, designed specifically for littles.

### **S.T.E.A.M. Lab Plus (ages 7+)**

3:30-4:30pm

S.T.E.A.M. Lab Plus is perfect for ages 7+ that want to learn about the world around them. Participate in group activities to learn about the Scientific Method, learn about Cause and Effect, make something to take home, and so much more! No registration required.

*Mark your calendars! STEAM Lab (ages 7+) will be held: Apr. 10th, & May 8th*

**STEAM Lab (ages 4-6)**

Mondays Mar. 27 (next week!), Apr. 24, & May 22,

3:30-4:30pm

STEAM toys & activities for younger children.

**Community Calendar****Monday**

HS Softball @ Havana - 4:30PM

HS Baseball HOME vs Princeville - 4:30PM

F-SO Baseball @ Williamsville - 4:30PM

**Tuesday**

HS Softball @ Central Catholic - 4:30PM

We Are FFA Program - 7:00PM  
Community Center

**Wednesday**

F-SO Baseball HOME vs East Peoria - 4:30PM

**Thursday**

F-SO Baseball @ Washington - 4:30PM

**Friday**

HS Track @ Illinois Wesleyan IL Prep Top Times Meet - TBA

HS Baseball HOME vs IVC - 4:30PM

**Saturday**

HS Baseball HOME vs Prairie Central, Havana - 10:00AM

**Around Town**



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Tremont Winning Communities | [info@tremontil.com](mailto:info@tremontil.com) | <http://tremontil.com>

Tremont Winning Communities | P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568

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